

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully considered the Examiner's Office Action mailed November 3, 2005. Responding thereto a number of amendments have been made to the claims for grammatical purposes only. Several of the claims have been canceled and several new claims have been added.

Unlike the prior art of record, systems and methods which embody the present invention make it possible to present both audio and visual representations of an ongoing set of conditions in a region at a displaced control panel or display. For example, in one embodiment of the invention audio signals indicative of actual fire noises can be presented at a displaced control unit. Such embodiments provide first responders the ability to listen to a fire in progress and to access as a result where it is in the path it may be taking.

In other embodiments of the invention, the audio can be indicative of movements of individuals in the vicinity of respective transducers. These embodiments enable the first responders to track movements of individuals including fire or emergency personnel in a region where there maybe an ongoing fire condition. Yet other embodiments of the invention enable first responders to determine not only if a fire condition is present somewhere in the region, in response to audio indicia, but also whether or not the region is occupied.

Yet other embodiments of the invention make it possible to display for first responders thermal conditions in a region. Finally, received audio can be processed to separate fire indicating signals, based on actual fire sounds, from audio received from individuals in the region.

None of the prior art of record or alone or in combination suggests, discloses or makes obvious the claimed invention. For example, Tice does not address tracking of

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either developing fire conditions or individuals present in the region. Tice merely refers to detecting the:

"presence or absence of individuals in the region under surveillance, or presence or absence of daylight." (Col. 2, Ins. 49-52 Tice)

DeGrande in his audible alarm network only responds to:

"the audible alarm signal produced by the other alarms in the system." (DeGrande, Abstract)

Finally, Palmer merely provides:

"output means for display of the relative combustion efficiency"
(Palmer, Abstract)

For at least the above reasons it is submitted that none of Tice, DeGrande or Palmer alone or in combination provide the necessary suggestion, teaching or motivation to modify Tice, the Examiner's primary reference, so as to make any of the pending claims obvious. Allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____


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